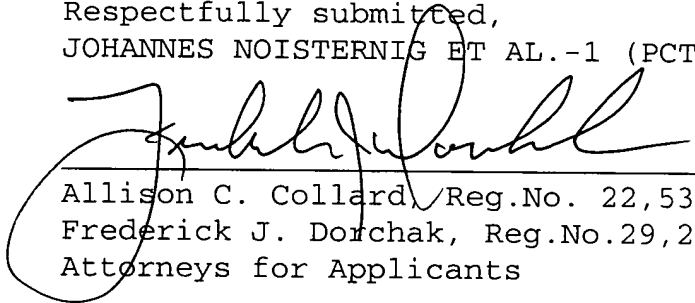


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1, clerical changes have been made on pages 10 and 12, an Abstract has been provided, claim 1 has been canceled, claims 2-19 have been amended and new claims 20-23 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHANNES NOISTERNIG ET AL.-1 (PCT)



Allison C. Collard, Reg.No. 22,532
Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg.No.29,298
Attorneys for Applicants

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802
FJD:jc

Express Mail No. **EV 590 259 024 US**
Date of Deposit - **January 4, 2005**

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Maria Guastella